I. Project Title: Coordinated Reservoir Operations Duchesne River

2. Principle Investigator:

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3. Project Summary:

The project study will identify and evaluate potential opportunities to coordinate the operation of various reservoirs located in the Duchesne River Basin upstream of the lower Duchesne Rivers with the goal of delivering water through the lower Duchesne River for improvement of the habitat. Reclamation Projects having facilities located in this part of the Basin are the Central Utah Project, Moon Lake Project, Provo River Project, Strawberry Valley Project and the Ute Indian Irrigation Project. Although these projects were independently authorized, there may be opportunities to coordinate the operation of certain facilities to benefit the habitat and endangered fish while not impairing the ability of the Projects to satisfy their authorized purposes. Other non-federal reservoirs may offer additional opportunities to coordinate operations. The potential opportunities will be fully described in the Summary Report with emphasis on those that appear to be the most viable.

The lower 2.5 miles of the Duchesne River has been designated as critical habitat for the razorback sucker and the lower Duchesne River may be important habitat for the endangered Pikeminnow and razorback sucker. Recovery of these fish in the upper Colorado River is expected to require improvement of existing habitat conditions. The coordinated operation of reservoirs located on the Duchesne River may result in the ability to enhance flows in the lower Duchesne River during periods of the year for the benefit of the endangered fish.

4. Study Schedule: 1998 – 2002

5. Relationship to RIPRAP

I.D.1. Determine Feasibility and Benefits of Coordinated Reservoir Operations

6. Accomplishment of FY 2001 tasks and deliverables, discussion of initial findings and shortcomings:

This year has been spent completing the model to meet the historical operational criteria. Multiple meetings have been held with water users to understand how the water rights of Duchesne River work. Considerable time has been spent determining the effects of primary rights on CUP diversions. The intricacies of the primary rights required a major change to model that took several months to implement, which put us behind schedule and over the budget set for this year.

Time that should have been spent completing the final report was spent making adjustments to the model. Rules to operate the model in accordance with all water rights have been developed for the Strawberry Aqueduct and associated facilities including Strawberry Reservoir. Data correlation to 1999 was completed this year, the period of record for the model is water year 1921 to 1999. Funds expended exceeded the funds provided for this year. In every previous year funding has been left over. Overall the project is considerably under the original budget. A request was made to the Management Committee for additional funding.

7. Recommendations:

The model is running based on current water rights and historical operation. Input from the biology side would be helpful in looking for different operational scenarios. Additional funding provided by the management committee was only for FY 2001. Additional funding will be required to finish running alternatives and to complete the final report.

VIII. Project Status:

Task 5 is 95 percent complete. Task 6 is 35 percent complete, but needs the additional scenarios completed to finish. With the model complete the additional scenarios are easy to implement. Analysis of the impacts takes a little more time. The project is mostly complete, there are just few things left to finish.

IX. FY 2001 Budget:
Funds Provided: $30,000 RIP
Funds Expended: $42,935 RIP
Difference: -$12,935
Recovery Program Funds Expended for Publication Charges: None

X. Signed: /S/ Edward A. Vidmar Date: November 30, 2001